

(c) determining that the measured fracture toughness of said paper/paperboard product is different than a desired fracture toughness;

(d) determining a second set of respective values for said plurality of material properties that will produce a fracture toughness closer to said desired fracture toughness than was said measured fracture toughness; and

(e) manufacturing paper/paperboard product of said particular grade having respective values for said plurality of material properties that are respectively substantially equal to said [first] second set of respective values.

REMARKS

At the outset, the Applicants hereby affirm the election, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group II, including claims 10-24. Non-elected claims 1-9 have been canceled.

The Applicants also wish to clarify the term "fracture toughness", which refers to a material's ability to resist crack propagation. Throughout the Office Action, the examiner refers to "fracture roughness". Since the Applicants' invention does not relate in any sense to roughness, the Applicants will treat references to "fracture roughness" in the office action as meaning "fracture toughness".

In the Office Action, claims 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 19, 20 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,013,403 to Chase in view of